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58. (Amended) A production apparatus according to Claim ~~59~~⁹, wherein said crucible has formed therein at least two degassing holes in the side wall portion thereof.

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56. (Amended) A production apparatus according to Claim ~~59~~⁹, wherein said crucible has a cylindrical shape.

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57. (Amended) A production apparatus according to Claim ~~59~~⁹, wherein said crucible has an inner diameter of at least 250 mm.

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58. (Amended) A production apparatus according to Claim ~~59~~⁹, wherein said degassing hole has a diameter of 1 to 5 mm.

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59. (Amended) A production apparatus for producing a crystal, said apparatus comprising:

a crucible containing a crystal precursor material; and

a heater arranged to heat said crucible,

wherein said crucible has formed therein a degassing hole in a side wall portion thereof for discharging an impurity gas produced when refining the crystal precursor material by adding a scavenger thereto, and

wherein a fluoride crystal is formed from the crystal precursor material, said crucible being divided into a plurality of stages and each stage of said plurality of stages of said crucible having formed therein a degassing hole in a side wall portion thereof for